

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

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R 150844Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 930

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10272

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN LEADER'S REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10244 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY : SPEAKING TO LARGE OUTDOOR CROWD DURING REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 12, PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE ADDRESSED BROADER DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS FACING REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THOUGH HARDLY REVOLUTIONARY IN CONTENT ITSELF, SPEECH WAS MODERATE, STATESMANLIKE, AND SURPRISINGLY CONCILIATORY IN ITS OFFERS FOR GREATER COOPERATION WITH SOMALIA. IT ALSO CONTAINED SHARP CONDEMNATION OF "OUTSIDE FORCES" TO WHOM TEFERI ATTRIBUTED MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERPETUATION OF ERITREAN CONFLICT. ENDD SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLOWING UP HIS NEW YEAR SPEECH ON INTERNAL POLICY PREVIOUS DAY(REFTEL), TEFERI BANTE MOVED FROM ECONOMIC TO POLITICAL ISSUES. STARTING FROM CHALLENGE OF "HOW TO BUILD SOCIALIST SOCIETY OUT OF DEBRIS OF FEUDAL ORDER WHICH LEFT NO MATERIAL BASE TO SPEAK OF" IN FACE OF REACTIONARY ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT CONSOLIDATION OF GAINS , HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT MUST GO BEYOND SIMPLE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION TO POPULATION OF EXISTING SURPLUSES TO A WIDENING OF MATERIAL BASE AND LIBERATION FROM BONDAGE OF UTTER DEPRIVATION AND IGNORANCE. OTHERWISE SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION COULD NOT SUCCEED. CREATION OF VANGUARD MASS POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD HELP, AS WOULD NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION PROGRAM FOR NEW STRUCTURES OF SELF-ADMINISTRATION AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, ENABLING ALL NATIONALITIES TO EXERCISE REGIONAL AUTONOMY, EXPRESS AND DEVELOP THEIR CULTURES, AND USE THEIR LANGUAGES.

2. TEFERI CALLED FOR AN END TO CONFLICT AND BLOODSHED IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY, CLAIMING THAT NINE-POINT PROGRAM OF LAST MAY FULLY MEET ASPIRATIONS FOR SELF-ASSERTION OF ERITREAN PEOPLE. EPMG CALL FOR MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE HAD REMAINED UNANSWERED, HOWEVER. MEANWHILE, INVOLVEMENT OF "OUTSIDE FORCES" IN THIS INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM HAD BECOME MORE BLATANT, TO POINT WHERE PERPETUATION OF CONFLICT, RATHER THAN EQUITABLE SOLUTION, OFTEN SEEMED GOAL.

3. ON SOMALIA, HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN HOPES THAT REVOLUTION WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION, AND ELIMINATION OF SOURCES OF MISUNDERSTANDING. INSTEAD, SOMALIA HAD NOT RECIPROCATED ETHIOPIAN OVERTURES FOR CONFEDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN STATES AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION, AND IT SOMETIMES APPEARED THAT SOMALIA CHOSE TO USE CONDITIONS CREATED BY ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION TO PURSUE ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. SINCE BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD LOSE FROM A CONFLICT, TEFERI RENEWED OFFER TO CONSIDER COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ON GROUND, IN RIVER WATER UTILIZATIONS, AND IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HE WARNED SOMALIA AGAINST FAIT ACCOMPLI IN DJIBOUTI THROUGH DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN INDEPENDENCE PROCESS OR THROUGH ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF POPULATION, AND RENEWED HIS CALL FOR JOINT FORMAL WITHDRAWAL OF CLAIMS ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF TFAI BEFORE OAU.

4. EFERI WAS SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT IN HIS POSITION

ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. NOTING THAT PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE OPTED FOR ARMED STRUGGLE AND EXPRESSING FULL ETHIOPIAN SUPPORT FOR THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, HE PROMISED HIS COUNTRY'S ASSISTANCE WITHIN LIMITS OF ITS RESOURCES. IN NEXT BREATH, HOWEVER, HE STRESSED ETHIOPIA'S UNRESERVED COMMITMENT TO STRUGGLE FOR PEACE. (NOTE: THIS AMBIVALENCE IS ALSO EVIDENT IN EPMG'S POSITION ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION TO AFRICA, FOR WE HEAR FREQUENTLY THAT VIOLENCE IS ONLY MEANS OF RESOLVING RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA PROBLEMS AND YET SENSE STRONG ETHIOPIAN INTEREST IN DEGREE TO WHICH SECRETARY IS SUCCESSFUL IN FACILITATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONFLICTING PARTIES.)

5. COMMENT: SPEECH, WHICH BROKE NO NEW GROUND, WAS GENERALLY MODERATE AND STATESMANLIKE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS ADMISSION THAT ERITREAN INSURGENTS HAVE THUS FAR NOT RESPONDED MEANINGFULLY TO EPMG OVERTURES, AND RATHER EXTENSIVE REMARKS ADDRESSED TO SOMALIA WHICH DESPITE CALLING ATTENTION TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WERE NONETHELESS COUCHED IN CONCILIATORY LANGUAGE. END COMMENT.

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